

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 09/01/93

Smith's Longspur

30 Mar 1984

2 mi. west of Essex, Page Co., IA

Record Number: 84-11

Classification: A-D

*Myers; IBL 54:50, 55:58

DOCUMENTATION

Robert K. Myers (same form with 84-10)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 54:50

Records Committee: IBL 55:58

VOTE: 7-III

III, good sketch.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation
by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: SMITH'S LONGSPUR
DATE SEEN: Mar 30, 1984
SITE OF OBSERVATION: near Essex, Page County
OBSERVERS: Bob Myers
DATE OF REVIEW: 1984
METHOD OF REVIEW: Circulation by mail to Records Committee
CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III
COMMENTS:

This apparently regular and previously overlooked species was well-documented by several observers, including this record.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

84-10
84-11

1. Species Smith's Longspur (Cakarius pictus) 2. Number Groups of 2-10
3. Location ^{4mi.} North of Red Oak, Ia. and 2 mi west of Essex, Iowa
4. Date: March 29, 30, 31 5. Time Bird Seen: various to Times

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

The birds showed buffy under parts and white patches on shoulder. Outer rectrices were white. Basically sparrow sized birds.

One male quite far along into alternate plumage showed very orange buffy breast and black + white color pattern in head along with the white patches in wings



7. Description of voice, if heard: Dry rapid Ticking notes when flushed
8. Description of behavior: Birds would flush, swirl around over-head and sometimes reland - very hard to see on ground
9. Habitat - general: Open-rolling Terrain
specific: usually in ankle

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Kinglet does not have buffy breast or white patches on shoulders or head.

11. Distance (how measured)? Usually within 10-20' when they flush 12. Optical equipment: B&W 7x35 binocs

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen Smith's for past 2 yrs in same location

15. Other observers: Francis Moore

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 week

Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.

Date: April 8, 1984 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa 50701